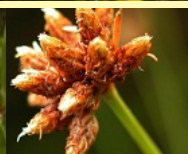




Native Wetland Plants of the Northern Mariana Islands



Wetlands plants of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Wetlands of the Northern Mariana Islands

The Northern Mariana Islands feature a wide variety of wetlands, including lakes, ponds, estuaries, marshes, swamps, streams and mangroves.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island's Division of Coastal Resources Management classifies wetlands and mangroves as an Area of Particular Concern (APC).

Development proposals within wetland and mangrove areas must apply for a permit with DCRM. All developments in wetland and mangrove areas must preserve or enhance wetland and mangrove areas,. Land fill and dumping within wetland areas, activities that cause sedimentation of wetlands and mangroves, and clearing of natural vegetation will not be permitted.

Why protect wetlands?

Wetlands are an important but fragile ecosystem. They control pollution and flooding, provide habitat for wildlife, and offer recreation and education opportunities. We need to protect and enhance the wetlands in the Northern Mariana Islands.





Acrostichum Aureum

Kathy Yuknavage

Acrosticchum Aureum

Local Name	Langayao
English Name	Golden leatherfern
Family	Polypodiaceae
Habitat	Coastal or freshwater swamps, mangrove edges, river mouths, wet depressions, Salt tolerant
Propagation	By clump division and rhizome cuttings
Notes	Tall, robust fern that grows up to 1.8 meters (6 feet) tall with broad. leathery fronds

Fern



Thelypteris Interrupta

Lainie Zanores

Thelypteris interrupta

Local Name	
English Name	Willdenow's maiden fern
Family	Thelypteridaceae
Habitat	Freshwater swamps, marshes and stream banks
Propagation	By clump division. Hard to transplant
Notes	A small to medium sized fern with light green delicate fronds, grows 30-90 cm (1-3 feet) tall.

Fern



Phragmites Karka

Lainie Zanores

Phragmites Karka

Local Name	Karriso
English Name	Tall reed
Family	Poaceae
Habitat	Freshwater and brackish marshes, swamps, cultivated areas, roadsides, ditches. Salt tolerant.
Propagation	By rhizome cuttings
Notes	Up to 3 meters (10 feet) or more in height. Very common



Sporobolus Virginicus

Forest and Kim Starr

Sporobolus Virginicus

Local Name	Totopot
English Name	Beach dropseed; seashore dropseed; salt grass
Family	Poaceae
Habitat	Saltwater marsh and other coastal areas. Grows in sand. Salt tolerant
Propagation	By rhizome cuttings
Notes	Perennial grass, grows up to 30cm (1foot) tall. Stabilizes dunes and beaches.



Heliotropium Indicum

Dustin Janeke

Heliotropium Indicum

Local Name	Berbena
English Name	Indian heliotrope
Family	Boraginaceae
Habitat	Stream, damp areas, ditches, roadsides
Propagation	By seed
Notes	Grows 15-50cm tall (0.5 - 1.5 feet). Flower on spike

Herb



Utricularia Bifida

Alpsdaki

Utricularia Bifida

Local Name	
English Name	Bladderwort
Family	Lentibulariaceae
Habitat	Ponds, freshwater marshes, damp soils, ditches, roadsides
Propagation	
Notes	Small carnivorous herb with yellow flowers, up to 25 cm (1 foot) tall

Herb



Utricularia Caerulea

Alpsdaki

Utricularia Caerulea

Local Name	
English Name	Blue bladderwort
Family	Lentibulariaceae
Habitat	Ponds, freshwater marshes, damp soils, streams, ditches, roadsides
Propagation	
Notes	Small carnivorous herb with blue flowers, up to 25 cm (1 foot) tall

Herb



Ludwigia Hyssopifolia

Lainie Zanores

Ludwigia Hyssopifolia

Local Name	Titimo, charguan asusuyan
English Name	Primrose-willow
Family	Onagraceae
Habitat	Ditches, roadsides, cultivated areas, stream banks
Propagation	Propagate by seed
Notes	Herb, grow to 1m (3 feet) tall, with small, yellow, 4-pettalled flower

Herb



Polygonum minus var procerum

Enrico Blasutto

Polygonum minus var procerum

Local Name	Mamaka
English Name	Knotweed; smartweed
Family	Polygonaceae
Habitat	Freshwater streams, roadsides, ditches, cultivated areas
Propagation	By seed
Notes	Low herb, grows up to 1 meter (3 feet) tall. White to pink flowers on long spikes up to 30 cm (1 foot) long

Herb



Bacopa Monnieri

Forest and Kim Starr

Bacopa Monnieri

Local Name	
English Name	Water hyssop; herb of grace
Family	Scrophulariaceae
Habitat	Damp ground, brackish marsh
Propagation	Propogade by cutting
Notes	Creeping herb with succulent leaves and small, white flower 4 to 5 petals. Grows only 5 cm (2 inches) tall.

Herb



Limnophila fragrans var. fragrans

CINHT / G. McCormack

Limnophila fragrans var. fragrans

Local Name	Gege sensoryan
English Name	
Family	Scrophulariaceae
Habitat	Ditches, roadsides, cultivated areas
Propagation	
Notes	Low herb, grow up 20 cm (8 inches). Small white flowers. Fragrant

Herb



Clerodendrum inerme var. oceanicum

Forest and Kim Starr

Clerodendrum inerme var. oceanicum

Local Name	Lodugao
English Name	Glory Bower
Family	Verbenaceae
Habitat	Wetland edges
Propagation	
Notes	Woody climber. Can climb up to 7-8 meters (23-26 feet). White flowers with pink stamens. Used for medicine

Herb



Cyperus Javanicus

Lainie Zanores

Cyperus Javanicus

Local Name	
English Name	Marsh cyperus
Family	Cyperaceae
Habitat	Coastal marshes, mangrove edges
Propagation	
Notes	Small perennial sedge, grows up to 40-100cm (1.5-3 feet tall). The flowers turn from pale green to brown and the flower stems are shorter than the basal leaves

Sedge



Cyperus Odoratus

Lainie Zanores

Cyperus Odoratus

Local Name	
English Name	Fragrant flatsedge
Family	Cyperaceae
Habitat	Freshwater marshes, ditches, roadsides, riverbeds cultivated areas
Propagation	
Notes	Annual or perennial sedge with triangular stems. Grows up to 30-100 cm (1-3 feet) tall. The flowers turn from green to brown and the flower stems are taller than the basal leaves

Sedge



Cyperus Polystachyos

Lainie Zanores

Cyperus Polystachyos

Local Name	
English Name	Many spike flatsedge
Family	Cyperaceae
Habitat	Ditches, roadsides, cultivated areas
Propagation	
Notes	Annual or perennial tufted sedge, grows 10-60 cm (0.5-2 feet) tall, with triangular stems. The flower stems are taller than the basal leaves.

Sedge



Eleocharis Geniculata

Main picture: Clyde Imada/Bishop Museum
Inset: CINHT / G. McCormack

Eleocharis Geniculata

Local Name	
English Name	Bent spikerush
Family	Cyperaceae
Habitat	Freshwater marshes, cultivated areas, roadsides ditches
Propagation	By seeds
Notes	Small annual tufted sedge with slender stems, grows 5-40cm (2-16 inches) tall.

Sedge



Fimbristylis Cymosa

Main picture: Forest and Kim Starr

Inset: CINHT / G. McCormack

Fimbristylis Cymosa

Local Name	
English Name	Button sedge
Family	Cyperaceae
Habitat	Coastal marshes, ditches, roadsides
Propagation	Seeds, rhizomes
Notes	Perennial sedge with triangular stems, grows 10-50 cm (4-20 inches) tall

Sedge



Fimbristylis Dichotoma

David Eikhoff

Fimbristylis Dichotoma

Local Name	
English Name	Forked fimbry
Family	Cyperaceae
Habitat	Freshwater marshes, swamps, ditches, roadsides cultivated areas, wet lawns
Propagation	Seeds, rhizomes
Notes	Erect annual or perennial tufted sedge to 60cm, common

Sedge



Fimbristylis Littoralis

Forest and Kim Starr

Fimbristylis Littoralis

Local Name	
English Name	Fimbry
Family	Cyperaceae
Habitat	Freshwater marshes, ditches, roadsides, cultivated areas
Propagation	Seeds
Notes	Annual, densely tufted, no rhizomes, stems flattened 4-sides with 2 sharp edges. Grows 10-50 cm (4-20 inches) tall

Sedge



Schoenoplectiella Juncooides

David Eikhoff

Schoenoplectiella Juncoides

(Scirpus juncoides)

Local Name	
English Name	Rock bulrush
Family	Cyperaceae
Habitat	Freshwater swamps and marches, ditches, roadsides, cultivated areas
Propagation	
Notes	Tufted sedges with rounded stems, grows 30-90cm (1-3 fett) tall

Sedge



Schoenoplectus Subulatus

Lainie Zanores

Schoenoplectus Subulatus

(*Scirpus litoralis*)

Local Name	
English Name	Bulrush
Family	Cyperaceae
Habitat	Brackish river mouths, coastal marshes and swamps
Propagation	
Notes	Dark green reed with rounded stems. Grows 60-150 cm (2-5 feet) tall. Grows in thick, pure stands in the mud of brackish water

Sedge



Bruguiera Gymnorhiza

Lainie Zanores

Bruguiera Gymnorhiza

Local Name	Mangle machu, mangle lahe
English Name	Black mangrove
Family	Rhizophoraceae
Habitat	Brackish water. The most common mangrove on Saipan.
Propagation	HYpocotyl
Notes	Small tree, grows up to 25 meters (80 feet), with dark green leathery leaves, some prop roots. Bright red solitary flowers, which germinate on the branch producing a hypocotyl which grows up to 25 cm (10 inches) long before it self-plants

Mangrove

Photo Credits

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